# By the King.

## A Proclamation concerning Buildings, and Inmates, within the Citie of London, and Confines of the same.

AMongst other His Maiesties important cares and affaires of State, and high consequence, since his accesse to the Crowne, It hath pleased his Maiestie, to take into his Princely consideration the present estate of the Citie of London, as being the Kings Chamber, the Seate Imperiall of this Kingdome, and renowned ouer all the parts of the Christian World; In respect whereof, and of the vsuall residence of his Maiesties Court so neere it, with the confluence of forreigne Ambassadors, and Strangers of great State and eminencie thither; His Maiestie is most graciously careful, to neglect no meanes of lawfull policie to prouide for the continuance and increase of the Honour, Liberty, Health, & Safety of the same, by remouing and preuenting such offensiue Lets, & Impediments, as haue heretofore giuen, or hereafter may giue hinderance thereunto: And calling to remembrance what vigilant care his most Royall Father, King Iames, of blessed memory, tooke in his life time to pursue the good course, which the most excellent Princesse, Queene Elizabeth, had in her time begun, concerning Inmates, & Buildings within the said City, and Confines thereof, by the well ordering of which two particulars onely, many great Inconueniences, and Preiudices to the Honour and good of the Citie, might bee remooued and auoyded; His Maiestie, vpon deliberate aduice with His Priuy Councell and perusall of what hath beene done in like case in the time of his most Royall Progenitors, and vpon What grounds and reasons, hath thought good to set downe by this one Proclamation, certaine distinct and plaine Orders, for the furtherance, and aduancement of his most gracious intention, concerning the Premisses in these Articles following.

FIrst, his Maiestie doth strictly charge and command, that no dwelling houses, Stables, Shops, Stalls, or any other Building whatsoeuer, be from henceforth erected, or attempted to be erected, within the City of London, or the Suburbs thereof, or within the distance of two miles, to be taken from any gate of the said City, or from his Maiesties Palace at Westminster, except it be vpon the foundation of a former dwelling house, or such like Building: and if any such Building, contrary to this Prohibition, shall hereafter happen to bee begun, that the

same, be forthwith stayed from further proceeding, by the Alderman of the Ward, or by two of the next Justices of Peace, and aswell such Builder as the Workemen Imployed therein, committed to prison, vntil they shal enter into sufficient bond, either to demolish, and pull downe that which is built, or to answer their contempt in his Maiesties high Court of Starre-Chamber, or before the Lords of the Priuy Councell, at the Councell board: And the Constable of the Parish or place, shall from time to time, in the first beginning of any such Worke or Building, giue notice to the Alderman of the Ward, or two next Justices of Peace, of any such offence, and of the offenders therein, that this Proclamation may be speedily, and freshly put in execution.

All Houses, Sheddes, Shoppes, and other buildings, Which haue been builded or set vp within the limits aforesaid, at any time since the thirteenth yeere of the late King Iames, of blessed memory, contrary to any Proclamation published in his late Maiesties time, shalbe forthwith pulled downe, as is before directed touching other Buildings, to bee stayed or pulled downe. And no Cellars erected within the time last mentioned, to be vsed for Lodgings or Victualling houses, but the occupiers thereof to be suppressed, and so to be kept by the Justices of Peace.

That no person or persons do erect, reedifie, or set vp any house or building in London, or within the distance of three miles from any the gates of the said Citie of London, or from his Maiesties Palace at Westminster, vnlesse hee doe make all the vtter walles of the same of Bricke, or Bricke and Stone: And that all Houses and Buildings to be erected within the said City, or in, or adioyning to any open Street of any Towne or Village out of the said City, within the limits of three miles aforesaid, shall be built according to the forme and proportion hereafter in these presents expressed (viz.) euery Whole Story of, and in such Houses and Buildings, and all and euery the Roomes of such Whole Story, shall be of the height of Tenne foot of Assize, at the least, and euery halfe Story, of and in such houses and buildings, shall be of the height of seuen foote and a halfe, at the least; And that the forefront, and all outward, and diuision walles, betwixt house and house, and the Jambes, heads and soyles of the Windowes, shalbe of Bricke, or of Bricke and Stone, and the Windowes (being of timber) not to be put in, vntill the Jambes and heads aforesaid be finished, and beare of themselues.

And if the said Buildings do not exceed two Stories in height, then the walles thereof shall be of the thicknesse of one bricke, and halfe a brickes length, according to the Assize of bricks hereunder mentioned from the ground vnto the vppermost part of the said walles; And where the building shalbe of the height of three Stories, the wals of the first Story shalbe of the thicknesse of two brickes length, and from thence vnto the vppermost part of the Wall, of the thicknesse of one bricke and halfe a brickes length, and so proportionably, if there shall be more Stories.

That in building of the said houses, there shall be no Jutties, or Jutting, or Cant Windowes, either vpon timber Joists, or otherwise, but the walles to go direct and straight vpwards, and at the setting off, a Water Table to be made; Also the Lights of the Windowes of euery Whole Story, to be of more height then bredth, to the end the Roomes may receiue ayre for health, and there may be sufficient peeres of bricke, not lesse then halfe the bredth of the Windowes betweene them for strength; And likewise the Windowes of euery halfe Story to bee made square euery way, or neere thereabouts.

That all Shops, and Street doores, bee made with Pillasters of stone or bricke, to bee in bredth fifteene inches, at the least, and as thicke as the Wall of the story, and the heads of the shop Windowes cut in Wedges, with Arches ouer them, to sustaine the Wall aboue; And that none doe raise the first floore to gaine the height in their Cellars, so as they are thereby forced to make steps into the street.

And, for the better encouragement of his Maiesties louing Subiects in their buildings, according to the direction of this Proclamation, his Maiestie hath thought fit, by the aduice aforesaid, to set downe these orders following, concerning the true making, and rating of the price of bricke, which is one of the principall materials requisite for the said Buildings, (viz)

That the earth whereof the Bricke shall be made, bee good and fit for that purpose: The first digging thereof to bee betweene the Feasts of Saint Michael the Archangel, and S. Thomas the Apostle; and the second digging, casting, or turning vp of the said earth, to bee at, or before the last day of February, then following: And that no person whatsoeuer, doe presume to digge, or make any Bricke, in any place within one mile of the gates of the sayd City of London, or within one mile of his Maiesties Palace of Westminster.

That the ſaid Earth be ſufficiently and well wrought and tempered before it be moulded; And that the Bricke-makers cauſe no Earth to be moulded for Bricke, but onely betweene the Feaſt of the Annunciation of the bleſſed Virgine Mary, and the laſt day of Auguſt yeerely, and at no other time or ſeaſon of the yeere.

That in the moulding of the ſaid Brickes, the moulds be throughly and well filled, and not ſet in the moulds, in the laying downe; And that they be ſufficiently and well dryed before they bee put into the Kilne, and then carefully and throughly burned; So as for the aſſize, euery Bricke being burned, conteyne in length, nine inches, in breadth, foure inches one quarter and halfe a quarter of an inch, and in thickneſſe, two inches and one quarter of an inch.

That the price of Brickes (being thus wrought and made in goodneſſe, ſize, and maner, as aforeſaid) ſhall not exceed the rate of eight ſhillings the thouſand at the Kilne: And if any exceſſiue rate be demanded for the carriage of the ſaid Brickes, from the Kilne, to the place where they ſhall be to be vſed, the Commiſſioners for Buildings to moderate the ſame, according to equity, in their good diſcretions; And that no perſon or perſons ſhall make, or cauſe to be made within fiue miles of any the gates of the City of London, nor bring by water or land, or vtter-ſell, or put to ſale within the ſaid City, or any place or places within fiue miles thereof, as aforeſaid, any Brickes made or wrought contrary to the directions aforeſaid, nor ſell the ſame at any higher rate, then is before mentioned.

That no perſon or perſons within the ſaid City of London, or within two miles from any the gates thereof, or from his Maieſties Palace at Weſtminſter, ſhall in defrauding the intent of this Proclamation, ſupport or ſtrengthen any Buildings ſo ruinous and old, as are vnfit to be continued, by digging of Cellars, and bringing vp new Bricke walles, by erecting new Chimneys and Staire-caſes, by placing pieces of Timber, by ſetting on new roofes or rafters, and thruſting out of dormers, knitting and faſtening together the ſaid new additions vnto the old Timber, by barres and crampes of Iron, or other like deuices, vnleſſe he or they ſhall bee thereunto licenced and allowed by his Maieſties Commiſſioners for Buildings.

That no perſon or perſons within the limits laſt aforeſaid, doe at any time or times hereafter preſume or attempt to erect, couer, ouerlay or incloſe any Houels, or other ſheds of Timber, with Reeds, Faggots, Hay, Straw, Boards, or other materials, or doe raiſe vp any Wall, Pale, or Banke of Earth, to which Sheds may be added, or do repaire or new make into the ſtreets, any maner of Bulkes, Stalles, Windowes, Doores, or other offenſiue iſſues. Or doe alter or change the vſe of any dwelling Houſe, or other Building, to any more noiſome or offenſiue vſe, end or purpoſe, then the ſame was imploied before the time of the demoliſhing or altering the ſame, without the ſpeciall Licence and Allowance of the ſaid Commiſſioners for Buildings.

And for that the diuiding of Houſes into ſeuerall Tenements and habitations, and the letting part of Houſes and Chambers to Inmates, and Vnder ſitters, is no leſſe inconuenient then exceſſiue Buildings, as well in regard of ſurcharge of people, eſpecially of the worſt ſort, and for breeding and ſpreading of Infection, as otherwiſe, his Maieſtie hath alſo by the aduice aforeſaid commanded theſe Articles following to be duely obſerued:

That no perſon or perſons within the City of London, or two miles from any the gates thereof, doe diuide any dwelling Houſe by Leaſe, ſufferance, or otherwiſe, into, or for any more Tenements or dwellings, then are at this preſent, or haue been heretofore vſed within the ſame, by the ſpace of thirty yeeres laſt paſt.

That no perſon doe hereafter receiue into any Houſe, any Inmates or Vnder-ſitters, or any more families then one.

That no perſon or perſons, who ſhall erect a new Houſe vpon, or within the Precincts of an old Foundation, ſhall diuide the ſame into more Tenements, or ſeuerall dwellings, then were vſed in the ſaid former Houſes.

By the due obſeruation of which ſeuerall Articles, as the vniformity of the Buildings will bring much honour to the City, and grace and ornament both to the Streets thereof, and to the neighbour Townes; So the building with Bricke or Stone will bee more durable and more ſafe from the danger and caſualties of fire; and withall, the reducing of all ſorts of houſes to this order, and the preſent remooning of Inmates and Vnder-ſitters, according to this Direction, will in ſhort time diſcontinue, and take away the many Cottages, Sheds, and baſe places of ha-

bitation in by-lanes and backe-ſtreets, whereby the Citie, Suburbs, and Confines will become more ſutable, and leſſe ſubiect to that danger of Sickneſſe and Infection, which by the vnwholſome peſtering of multitudes of poore people together, is now threatned againſt the ſame.

And therefore his Maieſtie, vpon mature and deliberate conſideration taken of the premiſſes, Doth ſtrictly charge and command, all and euery perſon or perſons of whatſoeuer degree, qualitie, or condition he or they bee, That he, they, and euery of them, doe well and truely obſerue and keepe all and ſinguler the Articles before ſpecified, in all things to them reſpectiuely belonging, as they will auoide his Maieſties high diſpleaſure, and ſuch further penalties and puniſhments, as their contempts and neglects herein ſhall demerite, and by his Maieſties Prerogatiue Royall, or otherwiſe may be inflicted vpon them.

And becauſe the life of all good Conſtitutions and Orders, ſtandeth in the quicke and due execution of them, as his Maieſty out of his further Princely care and deſire to haue this good Worke proſper and proceed according to his Maieſties moſt gratious intention, Hath choſen & appointed certaine of the Lords of his Priuy Councell, and others, Gentlemen of qualitie, to bee His Commiſſioners, to take ſpeciall care of the ſame, and to ſee this his Royall pleaſure, ſo much concerning the publique good, to be duely executed and performed; So his expreſſe charge and Commandement is, aſwel to the ſaid Commiſſioners, as to the Lord Maior, Recorder, and Aldermen of the ſaid City of London, and all Iuſtices of Peace Within the Counties of Middleſex, Eſſex Kent, and Surrey, and all high Conſtables, petie Conſtables, Headboroughs, and other Officers, to Whom it may appertaine, That they and euery of them in their ſeuerall places and Offices reſpectiuely, doe diligently and duely attend to giue their vttermoſt ayde, helpe, and aſſiſtance, according to their duties concerning the premiſſes: And Where they, or any of them ſhall finde any offence to be committed againſt any Branch or Article of this Proclamation, to make certificate thereof to the Lords of Our Priuy Councell, Whom We require to vſe all fitting care, prouidence and endeauour, to correct and reforme the ſame, or elſe to giue ſpeedy notice therof in Writing to Our Attourney generall, Whom Wee doe hereby command and authorize, to proſecute and proceed againſt all, and euery the offender and offenders aforeſaid, in the ſaid Court of Starchamber, That by the Sentence of that high and honourable Court, they may be better taught to know, and to do their duties, and both themſelues and others by their example, be brought to that conformity, Which his Maieſtie expecteth and requireth.

Giuen at the Court at White-Hall, the ſecond day of May, in the firſt yeere of His Maieſties Reigne of Great Brittaine, France and Ireland.

SOC. ANTIQ.

God ſaue the King.

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